

The Epistle
C TO H I S S I N G V L E R
good freend and louing Cuntryman,
Maister Robert Handley Citizen and Grocer of
London and Merchant Venterer into the Cuntries
of Spaine Richard Gahs wisheth long life and
prosperite to the pleasure of God and
his soules helth.



After I was giuen to understand of your safē return from Spanish soyle (moste deer and singuler good Freend) and of your happy arriuall heire into this Cittie, I vvas often in hart more desirous, then in effects any vviaesable, vwith some small tokē of my good vvil to gratulate your vwelcome home, and to thentent I might not betouched vwith that odile vice of Ingratitude (a vice of all men moste to be detested) I imagined many times vwith myself vwhich vway I might best frame myne habilitie, by vsing some parte of renumeration for your manifolde curtesies (as vpon my self as for my sake vpon my Freendes employed) to avoid the same, emongst vwhich my cogitations this handful of scribbled and bawepapers conteining the vunderfull and moste strange crueltie of Elizabeth Stile alias Rockingham and her associates lately at Abingdon reuaided vwith the guerdō due for their demerits, cam to my mind, vvhich after I had finished albeit at the first deeming them unvworthy of dedication so any: yet at the last incensed vwith the natuall

A ij.

instinct



The Epistle.

instinct of your gentle disposition I vvas imboldened (the rather for that that you your self bin taſted of their cup of displeasure) to commend the ſame beeing the firſt frutes of my labour to the gathering of your loouing handſtherby ouwardly to ſhew vve what the inward hart deſireth if abilitie did not vwant, hoping that vwith the moſte renoumed Persian King Artaxerxes you vvil frendly vouchſafe thakfully to receiuue this handfull of colde water, the entire cogniaunce of my vwilliug minde, offered unto you, deſiring you as leaſure may ſerue you thorougly vwith your freends to perufe it, by reuoluing vvhether if you finde any delight, gently to thinke of the vwriter vwho vvhisheth you encrease of health, vvelth and felicitie until the tie that Atrapos ſhall cut of the thred of this your mortall life and that after you haue paſſed the pace and run the race of this ſhort voyage and iourneye and of this brittle frail and unconstant life you may be placed, ſociated, knit and coſtined in that glittering light and bleſſed full life of that celeſtiall Ie
rusalem amongſt the company of heauenly Soules and holy mindes vvhich do en-

joy the life that only may be cal-
led life and only Emire
inuincible.

(‡)

¶ Your assured Frend in the
Lorde Richard Galis.

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To the Reader.

As thou hast all ready moſte (gentle Rea-
der begun to ſatife thy greedye
eyes with the frendly ſuruey of
the late confeſſion of Elizabeth Stile alias Ro-
ckingham, comprehending not a handful to
the number of their deuillish pageants play-
ed. So peruer ill I beſeech thee with
no leſſe good will to perufe this true edi-
tion for thy ſake and conueniētione only ſet
forth describing the ſtrange, cruell and
diabolicall tiranny practiſed through the
little regarde and great necligēce of Ma-
gistrates in these our dayes wirkynge at y
faultes of the Offenders which neither re-
garded the pitiful plaintes of the tormented,
nor the continuall plagues of the
tormentors poured out day by day vpon
their honest and innocent Neighbourſ,
ſome bereft of life, ſome of their wits and
ſome of the naturall course of their liues.

Emongſt which I being one of the leaſt
that ſuffered moſte and oſteſt went to y
pot, thought it good to ſet forth ſome
parte bothe of mine owne troublis and of
diuers others for thy behoof, in reueling
wherof, if ito my hāſt thou expect for my
philed phare or kernd ſile being but miſ-
led vp in a homely cuntrie Cabbin where
the praćtiſe of the flayle and whip more ri-
per

To the Reader.

per is then lernings loze, thou shalt great
ly be deceiu'd. But if a plain Shepherds
tale neither prophane or fained, oftener oc-
cupied in the tarbox and sheephook, In-
struments more fit for me then either pen
or inck may serue thy turne: receiue thy de-
sire. Employe therfore thy paines in per-
using the same, and if any thing thou find
that either presently contenteth thy minde
or that herafter prooue to thy profit: gine
thanks to them (and not to me) at whose
instance I framed the same, which
do on in requitall of my paines:

I haue that which I doo
expect. Thus farwel
gentle Reader.

RG.



The

Witches at

CThe first attempt of Elizabeth Stile
alias Mother Rockingham and her confederates
Witches executed for their offences the
twentysix day of February last past practis-
ed against the Author.

BEING AT DI-
verse and sundry times greeuously
 vexed, troubled and tormented as
 well in Body as in Minde, some
 times in my raging fits detesting &
 abhorring all Company, estrones again earnestly de-
 siring the same, I often Imagined with my selfe
 what strange disease and greef it shoule be that so
 shoule (being whole in Body and not overcharged
 with sicknesse, although exempt of perfect remem-
 brance) abate my flesh and weaken my Body, and
 lyng in my bed for wozne w vquiet rest, heawy w
 over much watchig, & desirous to vanquish my pains
 by taking a little sleepe: suddenly about twelve a
 clock in the night a shadowe of a huge and mightie
 black Cat, appered in my Chamber, which y more
 as shée approched neer my bed side: somuch the more
 began my here to stand upright, my hart to faint,
 and my paines moze and moze to increase, in so
 much I was constrained to call for my Fathers
 Maide, to bring a Candle, wherby I might more
 cleerly beholde mine Enemie which did so euellie
 intreat me, which maide, bring entred into my
 Chamber: I willed to looke idz y Cat, but she was
 not to be found, neither could the light whiche shée
 brought continne burning, at which strange sight
 being amased: the Maide beeing gon to bed again,
 and

VVindefor:

and I less tumbling and tossing in my bed, more
like to dyre than any longer to live, my sheets wring-
ing wit with sweat caused through this sundain
feare, I called at the last to my remembrance a
Brother of mine named James Galin who about
the Aye off stene pères falling out with one Mo-
ther Dutton one of the hellish brode, and at that
time suspected to be in that indeed which afterward
she proved was in like sorte taken in his bed, and
bereft of his wits, which vntil this day are not his
owne stil crying away with the Witch away with
the Witch, I therewith conjectured that the lame
Cat which so amazed me, was either some Witch
or of some Witches sending and that my paines be-
fore and at that instance sustained was by some
Witch practised vpon me. Wherupon knowing
that prayer in all troubles and extremities was the
cheapest string wheron each true Christian ought
so to strike, I tooke my prayer booke wherin was
conceiued alswel holsome and godly prayers as pla-
lmes, and with the brackish teares distilling from
the fountaines of my eyes, I sometimes red ther-
in, and sometime againe singing Psalms to
the honor and glory of God which had vouchsafed
of his mere mercie and godnes to strengthen me
in this my afflictions, utterly from the bottome of
my hart detesting and hating in desuarice all the
crene of devillish Enchaunters, wheroft England at
this day dooth abounde. Perswading my self that
God beeing my helper, buckler and defence, nei-
ther any Witch nor all the Devils in hel (were
they in number as many as the sands in the sea)
could haue once power to hurt mee, all this while
not forgetting Job whose faith no plague, no cras-
paine, nor vexation, that everathan by Gods
sufferaunce might ouer charge him with could not

any

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any wise remoue, thus as I have said, spending & contringing
weary and painful night in prayer, Aurora began to shewe
her self, whose cristall clernes as it appereed: so began my
paines to surcease, & I to be exonerated of the burthen therof,
which when I felt: I caused forwith the Bible to be brought
me, and incontinently I turned to the before remembred
history of that iust man Job, of whose stedfast faith and milde
patience when I had read and read againe, such strength in
the Lorde did so abound in me, that after that time all the
plagues, mischiefs and tormentes practised by the said hellish
Hagges against me could not afraie me.

*Hovv the Author occasioned to vvalke to Cluevworth met
vvith Mother Dutton vvhorne he (least thinkingon) brou-
ght to VVindsore before the Magistrates vvhich vvithous
any examination set her at libertie.*

Recouered of my greefs and by Gods deuine prouis-
dence restored by little and little to my former hea-
lth, bearing yet in minde some parte of the said
Mother Duttons dealing vsed vpon my said WIFE
ther James, and after that vpon my self, I determined hap-
what hap might, when conuenient leysure might serue to
bring the said Mother Dutton to VVindesore, before the spa-
gistrates there, to the intent if otherwise shē could not purge
herself the better of that wherwith she shoulde be charged: shē
might receiue such condign punishment as for such Offenders
by the lawes of þ Realme was due and prouided. Whiche de-
termination as it was then remembred: so in procelle of time
was it forgotten, til it fortuned that walking one day after
dinner to walk to Clueworth about certain my affaires whi-
ch I had there to do: shē met me ful in the face, whose sud-
daine meeting remouing my former intent then set in obliuion:
caused me furiously to lay holde vpon her arme, by the whi-
ch without many wordes giuen I brought her to the hall a p[er]t
son in VVindesore desiring the keeper therof surely to keþ her
in his custody vntil commaundement were giuen him by the

Windfor.

Magistrates to the contrary which hee denped to do without some speciall warrant from þ Maioz or the Justice for his discharge , wherpon I led her before Maister Richard Read forth at þ time Maioz of Windesor desiring him as he was true Officer to God and to his Prince to give his warrant to the Tayloz for the better saue keeping of this Witch hee brought by me before him , who for her devillish Sorceries and enghuntments cruelly practised vpon diuers honest men deserueth not to live , affirming that if I could not proue her by sufficient tryall to be a weed woorþye of plucking vp: I would receiu such punishment as might be to all (attempting the like either against man or woman) a god ensample but he being belike as a great number be now a dayes þ more pittie, and I wold to God it may be amended , mistrusting her devillish practises and fearing least some mischierf might succeed his correction either to him or his, altogether forgetting his oþ and dutie towards God and his Prince , for the due punishment of Offendoz in þ case had þ prouided commauded me þ without further delay I shold let her go, which shortly with I did no lesse bewailing her libertie then lamenting the lack of better Magistrates to weed out such Malefactoz.



VVitches at

Hovv the said Mother Dutton after her deliuery from the
Authors hands by the Mayor, practised vvhith her Assoc-
iates his ouerthroovve.



After this pestilent Witch was set at libertie, shē with her Confederates perceiving the little regard the Magistrates appointed to minister Justice, for the punishment of vice had of the complaints made and put vp against thē and greatly encouraged ther by, ceased not now to practise all kinde of meanes to bere, trouble and molest mee which because of my fedsafte faith in God they could not by thē selues nor by their wicked spirits execute the same vpon mee, they stirred vp others to be their cruel minis-
ters in the same.

I first procuring my Frēnds whome Nature lincked in the league of loue and Frēndship utterly to detest mee, shame fully to vse mee and that which greeued mee moste maliciously to enuie mee, in such sorte and so long that I often times wi-
shed exchaunge of my lyfe for a moste hasty and speddy death, thus living there in exile where reason would I should haue beene moste of all succoured, hated of all without cause, and loued of few, it chaunced that a Frēnd of mine Maister Robert Handley (before rehersed) who at that time for recrea-
tion sake making his aboade at a house of his in the cuntrie was likewise bewitched in his limmes so that he was not a-
ble to go, who suspecting his grees to come by witchcraft,
caused mee to be sent for partly for Frēndships sake which
alwayes hath beene e quall betwixt vs, and partly to vse that
by my meanes which he him self by reason of his grees could
not put in practise, to whome when I was come after a little
talke had, he tolde me that he doubted very much least he was
bewitched, wherfor (quoth he) god R. Galis, if any spark
of Frēndship hath ever beene kindled betwixt vs: I pray: thē
to fetch mee a Witch, at whose sight, hope persuadeth mee I
shall finde ease. At which wōzdes beeing indeed greatly
moued; inwardly (as one who loued his intire Frēnd)

VVitches et

bewailing my Frēnds troubles more then my owne , I wēt forth with out any word speaking, and amongst the crue of these helhounds I gat me and within one half houre after God being my help: I brought fourre before him, whose names ensue , videlicet Audrey the Mistresse , Elizabeth Stile alias Mother Rockingham , Mother Dutton and Mother Devil , all which fourre I caused to knale downe before the said Maister Handley and one Maister Henry Bust Studient in Phisick (charging them holding a god cudgel ouer their backs) as ever they would passe thence a line , not only to tel what the said Maister Handley ayled: but also to ease him of his grēf , to whome they replied vsing many excuses, that they neither could tel him his desease much lesse to help him therof.

Then going about to knowe how they had spent their time in the seruice of God: I examined them in the Lordes prayer, the belief and the ten Commaundements, wherin I founde them(to my great grēf) as blinde as a beetle and as wise as a Calfe , then demaunding the cause of their negligence therin, they replied that since they were borne they were never taught them , neither could they finde any that would instruct them therin , and therfore it was to harde for them vpon so shōrt a warning to answere vnto my obiections , which repli cation when I heard, sorye for their time so ill employed : I dzeue my purse and gaue each of them a peny, charging them as they loued their owne soules helth: diligently to learn the least that they come to soe ill end, for (said I) it can not other, wise be but that for want of thone ye must loue the other and for the lack of the grace of God, the loue of his holy word and commaundements: ye must needs serue the Devil your Lord and Maister , and there withall I bad them in God his name to departe , and in shōrt space after my Frēnd Maister Hand ley came to his olde course I mean to his former health.

*Hovv the same fourre VVitches after their departure from
Maister Handley his house vrrought the Authors imprision
ment and of his tormentis suffered during the time of his be
ing in holde.*

Whēn

*W*indesfor.

When these fourre louing Sisters were departed
from my frānds house, being of me no other
wise intreated or vsed then you haue heard, mis-
deeming (and not without god cause) that I wo-
uld worke their ouerthrolw in time if I might be suffered, they
sought by prison to a bridge my dayes, and because they them
selues wold be blamelesse and void of suspition, not conten-
ted with my paines passed beeing now hated, abhorred and as
it were spitted at of all men, and especially of my owne Pa-
rents & naturall Bretheren and brought even to h̄ very b̄ik
of desperation (had not God of his infinit mercy and godnes
with his mighty hand held me vp giuing me a great patience
wheretherto suffer his crosse laid vpon me for my offences) they
caused their Familiars without the which they could not do
any thing, to stirre vp and against me to incense the Maior
and Burgesses of the towne of Windesor (wherof my father
whilst he liued was a cheef member) who without any offence
committed, any hart pretended, or complaint made against
me, clapped me vp in Prison fast locked in a deep dunction,
into the which I was let vp and downe with a rope laden w̄
as many gyues and manacles as either my legges could carry
or my hands be able to beare, there to remain without baile,
vntill their further pleasure were therin had, a crueltie more
wōrthy for a traytor or a murderer then for any true subiect
to God & to his Prince. After I was thus inclosed in h̄ dark,
deprived of all humain company, refused to haue any bed for
my meney, or libertie of the Prison vpon god and sufficient
bond, I then began to mistrust my self, and feared the sudain
losse of my life, which easly then might haue beeene deprived
and with some surmised tale easly aunswere to the worlde,
though not hid from the face of the Lord, neverthelesse em-
boldened by the mighty help of God to cast away all feare
and patiently to suffer my troubles: I ceased not according to
my accustomed use and to my great comfort and consolation,
to sing to the honer and praysle of God the fortie one the fortie
two and the thre and fortie Psalms, begining The man is
blest that carefull is the needy consider, &c. during thereculti-
on of which crueltie: a pittifull sound of groaning voice opened

the

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the gates of mine eares , and presently my yrons which before
by wozkemās cunning were riuetted on , making a wonder-
full great noyse much like to a Smyth working of his met-
tall, fell of of my legges , & I taken in so straunge a case by the
space of two houres, that I thought y sole forthwith would
hane left the chariot of my mortall body . But still perseue-
ring in my prayers , I cased not to call vpon the Lorde , not
only for my deliuerance: but also that it would please him to
tarne the hartes of them which had so vniustly vsed their co-
rection vpon me . In the morning when it was daye, beeing
not called to mine answere: I desired that I might be permit-
ted to haue some cōference with Maister Doctor Day Deane
of the Castell royall of Windsoare , or with Maister Doctor
Wicham of the same Chappell, p̄zbende men of great wise-
dome and learning, to thentē I might (with their opinions)
be fully resolued of that which gnawed my conscience, which
by no meanes I could obtaine, bat within two dayes after
called to my answere before the Maior and his brethzen, and
eramined of my yrons falling of, I tolde them as before is de-
clared, who hauing nought els to charge me with, gaue order
for my deliuerāce, vsing with such extremitie their like power
vpon me more then a score of times , which here to expresse
would be to long , and more tedious to the Reader , so that I
was forced of my selfe to weave the webbe of mine owne ba-
nilhemēt, rather desirous to liue amiddes the deserkes of Ly-
bia among the Sauaduge and wilde beastes then in Windsoare
with my parentes and kinred.

*Hovv by the helpe of Syr Henry Neuell Knight, Maister Ri-
chard VVarde Esquier, and other Gentlemen of vvor-
ship, the author gat leaue to passe the seas into Flaunders,
vvhether for a time he serued under Captaine Morgaine.*



Inding here in natvie soyle no place of rest to
shrowde my carefull head but onely an ougly dun-
geon without light or comfort, no refuge succour
or helpe, but that which straungers imparted unto
me , I unimagined daily with my selfe what were best for me
to do .

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to do to anoyde these troubles daily more & more encreasing. Sometimes musing vpon this, sometime vpon that, nowe deuising one thing, then by and by an other, the lamētable estate and subuersion of the lowe countrie in Flauders, came to my minde, whereof a whyle cosidering, I determined to addresse my selfe towardes that coast, there to spend (if not the remainder of my dayes) yet at the least some part of my youthfull yeares in the service of some one Gentleman or other. No-thing doubting, but that God knowing mine innocencie and the righteousnesse of my cause, would not onely prosper my attempt: but also giue me happy successe to the ende of my trauayles. Upon the which point being fully perswaded, loth without licence, first of my deare father had and obtayned to depart (neuerthelese his vrkinde dealinges considered) I bended my steppes to the worshipfull Sir Henry Nevell Knight, who with Maister Richard Warde Esquier, by wage of humble petition, I moued to talke with my father about the p̄misses, at whose imþtunate and earnest perswasions þeing overcome, graunted their requestes, whereof þeing aduertised ioyfull to see my desier take his effect, what hastē I made to set all thinges in order for my trauayle, let the iudges that haue tastēd the like distresse. In fine armēd at all assaies to counteruayle my iorney before pretended, and ready prest to set forward on my waye, a double sorrowe began to combatte within me, and therewithall a doubtfull imagination. The one willing me to cease trauaile and enjoye the presence of my tender parentes, and louing companions no lesse carefull of my health then my selfe, the other encouraging me to auoyde the dayly assaultes of my aduersaries by chaunging the soyle to submitte my selfe into the handes of Lady Fortune. Thus trauersing in doubtfull doubt, nowe musing on the one, then thinking on the other, and troubled beyond all measure, what were best to be done: I pawsed me a while. At the last overcome with desier to proceade on my iourney: I determined to put my selfe to y mercy of Aeolus puffing blasts and to the merciles waues of Neptunes swelling seas.

The next day bidding my frends and Cuntrie farwel, I traauled toward London, and from thence I shippēd my selfe into

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into Holand whether beeing safely arrived god hap so fel out
on my sive that before I had spent a day or two in seeking best
for my aduantage, I found vnloked for of Maister William
Morgan Gentleman such gentle intertaintment that I im-
ployed all my enduour to augment my credit with him, un-
der whome I spent some time on the land, some times on the
seas as occasion serued as the Souldiers life desireth not rest
in one place, halfe a yeres seruice.

*Howv his Captaine leauing the Cuntrie the Author vvas
pricked vwith a loouely motion to his natvie Cuntrie to
make returne to his Father, vwho vpon his submission re-
ceuied him againe.*

THe xprores a little before rise in Holand and in all
the Cuntries there about, by valiant pruwesse of
martiall Knights suppressed: my Captain (leauing
the Cuntrie) gaue me occasion to think of my fren-
des in England in the midle of all mine Enemis not forgot-
ten, which for to see an earnest desire kindled my brest, and
vanquished with loue and dutie had towards them, I made
my return again to Windesor, more to recōsile my self to my
dear father to whōe before my departure I gaue some occasiō
of displeasure, then for any affection I bare to the towne, be-
fore whose Fatherly aspect, when I was approached, my out-
warde teares declaring my inward greēs: I fel prostrate on
my knēs and recognising my former follies, I craved medita-
tion of forgiuenes vpon my speedy amendmet. At the which
submission pardoning that which was past vpon performāce
of my promise moste like a louing Father receiued me again
greatly joyng my safe return. Neuerthelesse desirous not to
remain with him aboue thre or fourre dayes: I departed and
made my repaire to London, and in Lower Strete became
Couenant with Maister Stephen Heath a Clintner, til such
time as my Father oppressed with infinit paines by meanes
of this damnable sect did call me home cruelties and iniuries
done and wroght against the bzaunch could not once stanch
their

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their cruell myndes , thirsting after innocent bloud , without
the life of my deare father , whose bitter paines diminishing
his wonted strenght by little and little caused him to yeld vnto
the mercie of death , to the euerlasting grief of all that loued
him, but especially to me and other his poore chiloren, left as
shepe without a guide to the mercie of the Woulf . Alasse
what shold I say : to render vnto him his due prysse, I want
sufficiencie, and to make long discourse of his milde and meke
pacience , wherein hee continued vnto the last houre of his
gasping breath , I can not for teares and grief , wherefore as
against my wil I am cut of from my purpose . But thus much
you shall understande that no perswasions could pruayle
with him that hee was bewitched , such was his strong belief
in God , and yet diuerse time sighingly complaining , would
saye : O Lord , shall a man dye and bee not sicke : my harte is
whole , and yet my inward paines consume me, and so meake-
ly like a Lambe to the glorie of God,taking and suffering his
troubles , passed the straigtes of this mortall life , to lode
with Lazarus in Abrahams bosome .

*Hhwe the Author after his fathers death abiding vrish
his mother for her better comfort , framing him selfe to
live in the vworld, vvas preuented by the sayd vwitches
to his vtter undooing to this daye.*

MY deare father by these helhoundes and Impes of
the deuell , thus bereft mee , and intiered in the
ground (after whom we must all hie) I determin-
ed to the comfort of my mother , sorrowing the
want of her wedded make , to abyde with her , framing my
selfe like a subiect to live , and as it became an honest man to
do, so long as the time of his pilgrimage geueth him leaue to
abide , I went (with that little which God and my father had
left mee for my better maintenance) to buye shepe and other
cattell, whereby by due foresight and diligent taking heede : I
might make retourne of my principall with some aduantage,
but according to the prouerbe , hee that reckoneth before his
host must reckon twise, and so it fell to my lot. Foz after I had

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forred my self with the said Cattaill more worth at the time
of their sale, then the mony I paid for them, they began now
one then an other and in fine almooste all to dyc, and the rest
living in such a case, lest that I was constrained to take
half the money they cost me gaining by them as Dickins
did by his Dishes who bynging ffe for twopence solde six for a
penny, my cattail thus being consumed, and many other at-
tempts enterprized by mee, turned topsie turvie, mine olde
accustomed and raging fits began to set foot within my minde
I to imagin that Sathanes whelps were now setting a broch
the vessel of their despite to泄e my utter spoyle and confu-
sion. Wherefore I addressed my self to the worshipfull Sir
Henry Neuel Knight, who sufficently before perswaded of
my troublies, and greatly with my god Lady his bedfellowe,
(with whome I had often conference) pitying myne estate. I
besought euen in the bowels of our Lord Iesus Christe that
either my Aduersaries who hourelly tormentid mee might be
cut of: or I my self to receive the like punishment if god and
sufficient p^rowf were not on my side against them.

Six hours upon complaints made by the Author to Sir Hen-
ry Neuel they were comaunded to be brought before him,
and not beeing able to answere him in the Articles of the
Christian faith, they were publikly set under the Pulpit,

Vpon which complaint after Sir Henry Neuel
had aduisled him self, moued with the pitifull as-
pect of my wildishe countenance, promise was
made me that at a prefred day he only for that
purpose would come to Windesore, and vpon due examina-
tion had, seek redresse of my troublies. At which day appoin-
ted, I postid mee to the lodging of the said Sir Henry Neuel
beinge in the Castel, there to renue the remembraunce of his
promise, who knowing mine errand vpon my first entrance
into his Chamber comaundid me forthwith to bring them
before him, at which comaundement, you may thinke I
made no delay, but hastid mee about my busines, & brought
before

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before him as many as I suspected, which were, Audrey the Mistresse, Elizabeth Stile, Mother Dutton and Mother Nelson, saying, Sir I haue executed your commaundement and brought them into your presence, which if by god and sufficient tryall, I can not proue to be Witches: let me receive the punishment due vnto them, at which wordes quoth Sir Henry vnto them, what say you to this? Then his Worshyp further examined them in the presence of Maister Doctor Wickham Maister Wullard a Prebend of the Castel, Maister Morris, and Maister Stafferton Gentlemen, how and after what sorte they lived, whome they serued and how they had employed their time, they aunswered, as every one would in his own case the best, saying, y where they had been suspected to be Witches & workers of mischief against their neighbours, it was contrary and that the occasion put vp against them was rather vpon malice then otherwise. Then said I vnder your Worshyps correction, if they be such god liuers as they make them selues to be: I beseech you to examine them in the Articles of the Christian faith, and vpon their aunswere iudge of the rest. Then quoth Maister Wickham, can you say the Lordes prayer which he hath taught you? No forsooth quoth one, no forsooth quoth an other and likewise the rest, vpon which replycation: Maister Wickham began with a moste godly protestacio to perswade them not only to forslake their damnable wayes afore & at that time vsed, and diligently to learne the Lordes prayer, the belief, and the ten Commaundements, but also dayly for their beter instructions to have recourse vnto the Temple of God, to heare his deuine seruice, and for th'recution there of (because none durst wade so farre agaist them as I) I was appoineted overseer, beeing charged that on the next Sunday following they shold be brought to the Church, and publicly in the presence of all men to be set vnder the Pulpit during the time of Service.

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Howv the said VVitches vvere brought to the place appointed and hovv Audrey the Mistresse and Mother Nelson vwith in short time after died, vpon vvhose death the Author felte moste greeuous torments.



Onceiulg some god hope of future redresse vpon theramination had before the said Gentlemen of worship if other wise they were not conuerted from their sollic: I hid me home to my Chamber, where locking the doore so mee I fel flat on the ground rending thanks vnto all mighty God for that it had pleased him of his infinit mercy to open the blinde eys of the Magistrates at the last to looke vpon such Offenders whiche before thorow their negligence, nusled vp in all kinde of wickednes, ceasid not day nor night to oppresse the Innocent, (my prayer ended) I went about my busines vntil the day was come wherin I shold do my dutie, at which day I armed my self in the Lord against the said VVitches, whome gently intreating moze to win their harts vnto þ Lord, then for any feare I had of them: I cōducted them to the Church and in the place appointed I set them downe, (my self not standing far of thē) Where after by the Preacher they had received their lesson, and schooled fecz their lewd behaviour and idle life spent to no profit, but to inuent wickednes and mischief, they departed home. Afterwards whether it were for gref of the correction executed, or the inward gnawing of conscience, feeling them selues by the Preacher touched at the quick, (I cannot tel) but with in short space after, Audrey the Mistresse and Mother Nelson dyed, after whose death the sisters left behinde given ouer to their owne lusts and suffered to wallowe in their owne wickednes, made their assembly in the pits in Maister Dodges backside, a place where all their mischief was pretended, and there in generally agreed either to bring me vnto my end, or living stil to feele a life a hundred times more sharpe then a present death, if other wise the sooner I sought not meanes to dislodge my self, and desirous not to vse any delay in furthering their intents, about their accustomed hours

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houres of mæking in the night: my bed, ordained for my quiet rest became the augmentor of my greefs , and in stead of sleep I was fed with continuall watchings , caused throughe the extreame torturs and greevous paines sustainted in the night . Thus hauing ouer passed many nights in paines, diuersle and sundry times the aforesaid Cat or the devil him self in a Cats likenes: vled to frequent and haunt my Chamber hurring and buzing about my bed, vexing and troubling me beyond all measure , in such straunge and lamentable wise, that I was enforced with my weapon lying dazwen vpon my bed to keep my self waking in prayers least beeing ouercome with sleepe: I should be strangled in my bed.



The

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The Author being almost spent vwith grief, complaineth him
the third time to Sir Henry Neuell, before vvhom hee
brought the said Elizabeth Stile bound vwith a cart rope
on the market daye.



Outsmed with these infinite paines both in body
and purse eche night assayled with a newe grief,
lothing anie longer to live, seeing that in four
yeeres past, no reformation might bee had for all
my complaintes. Leauing my careful bedde, the witnes of my
griefe and of my inward sorowe: I made me ready and gir-
ding my Skeane about my middle with a god cudgill in my
hande, I gate me to Farnham to the house of father Rose-
man, whom furiously pulling out of his house by head and
shoulders I charged (not vsing any daliaunce with me) to tell
me my grieses. Who being agast at my dealinges, and fea-
ring least that being not able to gouerne mee in my fury,
I would strike of his head: Said, O maister you are bewit-
ched, you are bewitched, wherefore looke to your selfe, if not:
in fine you wilbe destroyed, for you haue many wicked wo-
men in Windsoare, and such as doe much harme, and who
practized the like on mee once, because I did displease them.
Then I bad him tell mee what they were, who aunswereid,
that their names were Elizabeth Stile, Mother Dutton,
and Mother Deuell, at which wordes leaving hym (not alto-
gether recovered of the feare hee conceived by mee) I went to
the sayde Elizabeth Stiles house, charging her to goe with
mee vnto Sir Henry Neuells, which squatting downe vp-
pon her buttockes, shee denyed to do. Then finding a
Carte rope harde by, I bounde it about her myddle, and
layde the rope on my shoulder, wherewith forceably I pul-
led her out of her house, drawing her a long the streate, be-
ing on the market daye (not one daring once to helpe mee)
but a little boye, whiche helde the rope by the ende) vntill
I came vnto the lodging of Sir Henry Neuell, vnto
whome in the presence of a companie of Gentlemen at that
time talking with him, I offered vp my present, saying, be-
hold

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holde here ryght worshipfull, I haue brought you heer a mon-
ster, which because of her scibled lymnes, is not able to goe,
I haue taken paynes to dralve. Then shē began to curse,
banne and sware, soming at the mouth like a boze, to the
great astonisheement of all the beholders, which amased with
that horrible sight (more for feare I thinke then for any godd
wyll) suffered her to escape, with the whiche departure (as I
could not chuse beeing greatly greued) seeing that for all my
complaintes made, no hope of redresse was to bee looked for at
the Magistrates handes : I thought nowe to vse myne owne
force vpon them. Wherfore dayly frequenting my selfe to
haue once a daye my recourse by their dores, I would nowe
one, then an other, so Ribrost with my cudgell (caried always
about me for the same purpose) that in the ende getting the
upper hand, I had them in such awe, that the Scholer hauing
offered, feared not so much his Maisters correction as they
did my presence, as afterwardes it appeared by Mother Dut-
ton, who so soone as shē had heard of my comming that waye:
would haue runne and locked her selfe into a Chesse for
feare.

*Hovve the Author hauing occasion to be abroade
one night at the houre of their meeting, bee
savve the Deuell in a Carte sitting, and
hovve by the helpe of God he put him
to flight, and of other strange ac-
cidentes done by him.*

My courage nowe beeing augmented by the trium-
phant victorie gotten ouer myne enemies, and fee-
ling no more tast of my passed grieffes, my busi-
nesse so falling forth, it was my chance one night
about xij. of the clocke in the night to ride by the place where
these Impes accustomed vse was to mette, to my house.

And in my waye as I was ryding, my horse leyyng

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of a very god stomacke, sudainly stopped slinging and lassing
out behinde, snortyng and taking on out of all measure, ney-
ther proceeding further nor retorning back, wherewith all
beeing little amased because it was no straunge thing vnto
mee, I alighted and taking my sworde drawen in the one
hand, and my buckler in the other, castynge myne eye aside to
see if I could perceiue anie bodie stirring, I sudainly spied a
most horriblie sight and ougely fende sitting in a pore mans
cart, like one ryding to fetche in his haruest, with a payre of
eies burning like the fierie flames, whose ougely shape when
I behelde, falling on my knees in the middes of the dyr, I bes-
sought God to assit mee with his strengthe against this fende,
and that through his myghtie power I might get the victorie.
Then rising, I went towardes the place where this god fel-
lowe was watching for his praye. At whom (my faith fied-
fally set in the Lord) I let flye with my sworde, saying, anoyde
Sathan auoyde, and in the name of God I charge thee to a-
uoyde, thou hast nougħt to do with mee, wherfore go hunte
after the Doe which hath caused thee here to sittē. At which
wordes: a great light appeared round about the cart where
hee sat, and therewithall an horriblie sent of brymstone was
dispersed abroade, but hee was no more seene afterwarde,
with the which sent Maister Afton of the Healding house com-
ming that waye the self same present tyme, thought presently
to haue died, had not helpe come in the meane tyme.

This done, I gate mee to my horse, upon whose back whē
I was amounted: I passed to my house as quietly as myght be
without harme, where not forgetting the godnesse of God
towardes them: that put their trust in him, I spent an hōure
or two in prayer. The next day beeing come, no lesse desirous
to be reuenged of theim then they were to molest mee before:
Hoping still to finde a meanes to cut theim off, and to weede
theim cleane from the face of the earth, I practised many at-
tempts, and not so many as often executed to the entent I
might bee brought to some further answere, for the extirpa-
ting and pulling vp the saide wicked wādes by the rotes.
And because there was no Justice that wold execute his of-
fice therein by the othe decreted vnto them. I determined to

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proue what I could do my selfe, wherefore I gat me a pounds
of brimstone , and melted the same and dipped therein as it
melted a great dyie linnen cloth , and into a houile of straws
of mother Buttons, I thrust it whereunto I put a great fier
brande beeing of it selfe (the brimstone taken away) sufficient
inough to haue consumed a hundreth times as much , which
burned vnto ashes, y strawe not once perished. An other time
likewyse, one Richard Parker standing by , hauing bought
a quarter of a pounde of gunne poulder, and as much of brim-
stone, I chose an arrowe from out of a shease, and thereunto I
bounde the said poulder and brimstone with stringes, making
therin a little touchhole whereby to give fier therunto (whē
I thought it god) and thrust the same into an other honile ad-
ioyning to her house , fully determined to bring her togither
with her house by fier to playe the last act of her tragedy, vnto
the which , with a matche set at the ende of a long sticke I
gave fier, which arrowe albeit , it consumed to ashes , yet ne-
uerthelesse y strawe still remained without any signe of hurt
which Straunge sight when I behelde , beeing a thing no lesse
Straunge to be tolde, then harde to be beleued: I sighing, sayde
to my selfe. O Lord, what shall I do vnto this wicked unpe, &
to the rest of her confederates , whom neither fier or sworde
may devoure, neither Gods thundering threatnes prouoke to
repentance. To suffer them longer to experimenter life in their
wickednesse , and to the ouerthowe of their neighbours , my
hart refuseth. And still to contrine and spende my time about
it:is to my hinderance. If I complaine moe of their detestable
dowings; the magistrates leame deafe, if I (as enemies to God
and their Prince) molest or vrge them : imprisonment laden
with gyues falleth out to my share. If I craue helpe of the m-
serioz sort (my correction so affrayes them) that albeit they
would helpe, yet they dare not. Thus do I see al hope of moe
helpe taken from me, and all comfort bereft me: Wherefore
I will henceforth cease and bridle my desires. And vnto thee
O Lorde , which knowing the secretes of all mens hartes,
canst and wilt, when thou seest thi time , roote out and pull vp
from thy god and chosen plantes such wicked graftes. To thee
(I late) will I remitte mycause , and leake to lodge and settle

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my selfe in some other soyle wher justice may be ministred, vice corrected, & wronges redressed. And therewithal departed to my house, from whence within fewe daies , after I had set my affaires in god order: I departed to seke my aduentures, since which time of my departure, it hath please[n]t God at the last to strike these wicked and detestable liuers with the rod of his correction. Who with the pat of their wickednesse so long powred the water of God his vengeance vpon them that at the length they were apprehended and committed to the common gaile there to remaine vntill by due profe of their diabolical livings be tried , & after triall had , receive[n]e the Gverdon answerable their demerites , where beeing founde giltie and conuict of the crime obiect against them; they suffered at Abingdon the sixe and twentie daie of February last past for the same, as by the brief and summe of their cōfession here ensuing, thou maist more at large perceiue.

The cōfession of Elizabeth Stile , alias Rockingham, a witch dwelling in VVindsoore in the Countie of Barke , declarēd in the gaile of Reading, in the said County in the xxiiij. yere of the raigne of our most dread soueraigne Lady Elizabeth. Queene of England, Fraunce and Ireland &c.


Elizabeth Stile , alias Rockingham apprehended for her witchcraft vsed in Windsoore, and for the same brought before Sir Henry Nevell Knight , was by him examined, who soz that he by manifest proffes of her vnjust & vnhonest behavour , founde her an offendour vnto the Quenes maiesties iedge people, committed her to the common gaile at Reading, where shee beeing examined, had (the feare of God pricking her thereunto as it leamed) some remorse of conscience , and confessed before Thomas Howe, the Taylour, John Knight, the Cunstable John Cris-
fith an Inholder, & one William Pyntall, of divers as well men as women, that vsed to doo much harme, by Sorcery, Witchecrafte, & enchantement, whose names hereafter ensue.
I First that one father Rosman alias Osborne, dwelling in Farneham in the Countie of Buckingham, and his daughter are witches , & that the said Rosman can alter & chaunge him

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him selfe into any kinde of beast that him listeth.

2 Item one mother Dalton, dwelling within Hodgkins in the parische of Cleworth nere Windsoare, can tell every mans errand assone as shē saeth him, & worketh by a spirit in like-nesse of a fode which shē nominateth Maide, and shē giveth him a drop of blood in her flancke, and keepeþ him alwayes in a gardin in a border of grene herbes.

3 Item one mother Deuell dwelling in Windsoare by the rounde, keeþ a black Cat which shē nameth Iyll, & vseth to carrie it in her lappe, and feedeth it with blod and milke, and Rosimans daughter hath a white Cat.

4 Item one mother Margaret a lame woman, going with crutches, feedeth a kittling with crummes of bread and with some of her blod, and calleth it Ynne.

5 Item the said Elizabeth Stile, sayth that shē her selfe keþ a Katte, which shē named Philip, the which shē fedde with crummes of bread and blod of her right arme about the hand wress, the place thereof not hidden, and saith, that further shē with the rest hath geuen her right side to the Devill.

6 Item this examinat further, saith that father Rosimond and his daughter, mother Margarete, mother Dutto, and her selfe, were accustomed to make their meeting on the backsides of Maister Dodges, where they vsed to conferre of such their enterprises as before they had determined of and practized.

7 Item shē also confesseth that mother Deuell was a pore woman, and vsed to go about bigging of the almes of her honest neighbours, which if they did once deny her request, mischies alwayes ensued to them or to their cattel.

8 Item shē further saith, þ as concerning their craft & wicked practises, they haue vsed it vpon diuers & sundry persons, of whō one Langford a Farmer, inhabiting in Windsoare by the theāes side was one, who died therby & whose maid shortly after drunk of þ same cup wherof the maister before had tasted.

9 Item one maister Richard Galis Gent, (father of the au-
thor) who in times past, & þ thysle at þ least, alwel for his wi-
dome as for his politique & god government, had been Maior
of Windsoare, was by their practise brought likewise to his end.

10 Item one Swicher a Butcher, was serued of þ same farce.

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11. Item shē also saith that shē her self was the death of one Haddock by a clap shē gave him on the shoulder , because hē brake his promise in not giving her an olde cloke whic h hē promised to dw.

12. Item that Mother Denel did ouer speake one William Foster a Fisher , and one Hil his wife a Baker.

13. Item she also confesseth that they al togither with one Consent ouer spake on Humfrey Vesey and his wife , Richard Mils and John Hatfingley , so that they lay every ons long time sick before they could recouer again their helth also and one Pastline a ~~Wif~~ her

14. Item shē saith that on a time a Childe (beeing a mans Sonne in Windesore) hurled a stōne on her house wherwith beeing moued to anger shē tooke his pot from him , threatned to be euēn with him , wherwithall the Child went home wardes , and in the way meeting his Father he tolde him what had happened. To whome his Father said: Y hast don some vnhappinesse to her , come with mee and I will speak with her , and as they went togethers towards her house , the Childe sudainly began to cry out Oh my hand my hand , and his Father inquiring what hē ailed looking vpon his hand and beholding it turned clean out of course and that otherwise then Nature had framed it : tooke it in his hand and assayed to haue turned it right again , but hē & an other man a neighbour of his (beeing with him at that present) could not dw it , the which was holpen afterwardes by Mother Dutton ,

15. Item she saith that as working the death of th'asore named Lanckforde , Maister Galis Lanckfords Maide and Suytcher the said Mother Dutton did make a picture of war and did stick a hauhōrn prick as it were against the hart of it that they died shortly after , and the said pictures they cunuened in a hole made for the nonce in the Chimney cozuer , before the which they set twobricks & as the war melted so the man consumed vnto death by whiche meanes shē saith they could kilany of what degrēe soever .

16. Item shē also saith that the said Mother Dutton did give a picture but whether it were of man or womā she dooth not

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not remember the man that had it of her, she thinkeþ to be dead, and also þ one George Whiting seruāt to Mathew Pain of Eaton had a picture of her self for one Foster, for that that the same George and Foster fel at words and the picture, was made in Mother Duttons house, and Mother Devil said to her bun, spare not to plague him, thrusting a hauchoȝn prick against the hart of it, so þ he lay at the point of death, a long time but in the end Mother Dutton recovered him again, vsing their extremitie by kiling of a Colwe of his.

17 Item the said Elizabeth saith that the said Mother Dutton and Mother Devil were the first Inticers of her to all those aforesaid dwyngs, and that she and every of them did ofte times meet togither at Maister Dodges pits and sometime at the pound about eleven a clock at night, & that Mother Dutton and Mother Devil did allure her to dw and exercise þ craft which they them selues then and before vsed, and with them to forsake God and all His wörks and to give her selfe to the Devil.

18 Item she saith that on a time she went to olde Rissmans house and found him sitting at the root of an che like an Ape and there talked with him long, and leaving him at her departure in the same shape, and at an other time she found him like an horse.

19. Item she saith that she went on a time to olde Windersey to the bedmaker to beg milk which she could not have because the maid was a milking luf at her return she said her Cat had prouidid bothe milk and creame.

20 Item she confesseth that one Mother Audrey being one of the four that sat vnder the Pulpit before shewd inhabiting in the Almes house was the chaf mistress of them all but she is dead.

21 Item she saith that four or five of the ablest men in Windersey (if shē had bin so disposed) should not haue brought her to the Gaile but that shē came of her owne accord, for by the way as shē went with John Brown to the Gaile who was her Guide thither, her Bun came to her in the like nesse of a great black Cat and would haue had her away, but

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heping for squone, she banished him againe.

22 Item shē also saith that their wōrds of charme weare
these, come on let vs go about it, and presently they were
changed into a new shāpe.

To all which aforesaid Articles the said Eliza-
beth said shē would affirme, and vnto her death
truly stand to.

This is not to besorgotten that the said Mother Stile albeit
at the time of her apprehension and conduction to the Gaile
she was of perfect limme and ioint: yet neuerthelesse was
she after the said confession made, so altered and changed, by
the incantaunces of her owne Confederates: that she was y
moste odiblēst creature that ever man beheld, insomuch that
she was brought vpon a barrowe to her arraignment before
the Judges.

This is to be remembred also that amongst the Offenders
aforesaid, and that at the time of their execution, Mother
Margaret beeing vpon the ladder and readye to playe the last
act, of her life, and committing her selfe to the mercie of the
law, by the whiche shē was adiudged for her desarts to suffer
death: began to say the Lordes prayer in the whiche shē conti-
nued til shē came to these wōrds and forgiue vs our trespass-
es &c. at which place making a stay crying out against one
Hauoye Haruy of Windesore Oster her acculer, which then
was comming towards the place of the execution where they
all suffered to see her end, saying art thou come to cast mee a-
way? and speake to the People then standing by, mark the end
of him before this time tweluenonth, and waxing ouly to
the terror of the Beholders shē impatiently ended her life.

Finis,

The Conclusion to the Reader.



Whus hast thou heard hāre moste louing Reader
how much the foolish pittie and slacknes of the
Magistrates of Windesore in executing their
officē, hath giuen occasion to these wicked Imps
the

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the Daughters of the Devil, to persist in their follye, thou hast
heard also remembred vnto thee what drifts of deuelish de-
uises since the first time of mother Duttons apprehension
and brought by me before Maister Richard Redforthe then
Maioz of Windesore, hath by them been practised to the great
hurt of the Inhabitants, their neighbours, and to thy great
admiration, whiche if at that present had been as thorowely
listed out as it was but winched at, and as to late (I may say)
it hath been by some, (since those persons in the afore confes-
sion mentioned and by their enchantments brought to their
ends) not only had enjoyed their lives vntil this day: but I
also a moske louing Father and they them selues an assured
and stedfast rock in the time of their need, where now by their
sufferance wee be depriued of bothe. But sith to call thi-
nges long time past in obliuion to remembrance again, will
but increase my greate and renne my sorowe: I therfore will
with the vale of scilence couer that whiche my hart desired to
exprese. Only I beseech the heauenly Father who is the gi-
uer of all godnes that this ensample past and now to all men
most apparant, may be so printed and roote in the harts
of all Magistrates appointed for the execution of true and vp-
right Justice to the maintenaunce of the god and pulling
down of the wicked, that from hence forth not only all poore
mens causes may be pitied, their complaints accepted, and
their wrongs redresed: but also that by their carefull industry
and diligence employed, all Doctorers, Witches and Char-
merers may utterly be waxed out from the face of the earth
to the commeditie of a common welth and to the honore
glory of God, to whome be all praise, laude,
bonunion and power for ever and ever

Amen.

O